England Commons, Journ. (1)

THE CORRUPTION AND IMPIETY OF THE Common Members OF THE Late House of COMMONS.

IT is with the Best *Governments*, that all the Wit and Foresight of Man can devise, as it is with Material *Buildings*. They are both alike subject to *Decays*, which if not repaired in due time, inevitably bring Ruin and Destruction at last. The *true English Government* is both in it self one of the best Constitutions in the World, and most accomodate to the Nature and Genius of the *English People*. And *the People of this Nation* have been heretofore as famous, not only for Courage and Hardiness, but also for Wisdom, Virtue and Piety, as any People in the World. But at this present, both the Government is fallen into great Decay, and the People become so degenerate, that they are like to become the Scorn and *Odium* of all the rest of Mankind, if Matters be not speedily amended. The whole Nation has seemed to me for some time, as under an *Enchantment*. And I have known those, who in respect to the Notorious *Corruption of the House of Commons* having jestingly said, They were True Representatives of the People, and yet when they themselves have gotten in among

them, have done nothing worthy of the Name of *Engliſhmen* toward any Amendment, much leſs of Chriſtians, though Profeſſors of Religion of no ordinary Form.

The Writers of *Magick* tell us, That ſuch as are Initiate and Proficients in the *Black Art*, can by the Aſſiſtance of their *Familiar Spirits*, ſo bind People in ſome Particulars, that in thoſe Particulars they cannot accompliſh any thing, though in all others they act as other People, and divers ſuch have I ſeen and diſcourſed with. And whole Families have I known brought to Deſolation, in ſuch manner as ſeemed very plain to me, to be by the ſecret Operations of ſome inviſible intelligent Powers, or ſome *Secret Curſe*, which did adhere to them, or both. And in ſome I have known a certain and manifeſt Cauſe, and I doubt not, but there was the like in others but unknown to any but ſuch as would not diſcover it. And this I have great reaſon to believe is the true Caſe of this Nation; which will appeer in time. But it is too ſober a Subject for ſo mad a Generation to be farther diſcourſed at preſent.

The *Corruptions of the Houſe of Commons* is what is at preſent neceſſary to be conſider'd, and is ſo Notorious, as needs not many Words to prove it. It hath been a *common and known Practice* for this Forty Years laſt paſt, for Men of Confidence and ready Elocution, if they could but procure an Election in ſome little Mercenary Burrough, and ſo get into the Houſe, preſently to ſet themſelves to oppoſe the King and the Court, that they might be bought off by ſome good *Gratuity*, *Penſion*, or *Place*: and one while to Treat the King with the greateſt Inſolence and Indignity; and another time the whole Houſe of Commons: and this either lightly laugh'd at, or gravely and prudentially paſſ'd by by the reſt. Have we not ſeen after ſufficient Inſolence to the King on one ſide, afterwards the whole Houſe of Commons Adjourned by the ſame Perſon, their Speaker, without; nay, againſt their Conſent, to pleaſe him, and yet this Gentleman permitted conſtantly to be a Member to this Day? And what a Noiſe and Clamour had we lately of the *Growth of Popery*, and a moſt unreaſonable Act paſſed upon it, when the Myſtery of all was no other than to Lower King *William's* Reputation with his Confederates beyond Sea, and ingratiate themſelves with the Abuſed People at home? Whether theſe things do not tend to the Diſſolution of the

Government,

Government, and to introduce a Commonwealth, like to be in Anarchy and Confuſion, as heretofore; is not hard to be reſolved, and deſerves to be well conſider'd in time. And it may be worth the Conſideration, Whether the Myſtery of ſome Peoples *Heat about the Succeſſion* be not in the bottom to make that a Step to the Alteration of the Government; So that there ſeems *two Dangerous Corruptions* in the late Members of the Houſe of Commons; the one *the Trade of Particular Members*; of which I have mentioned but little of what is known, or upon good grounds believed or ſuſpected; whereby the common Intereſt of the People is bought and ſold by theſe Traders or Traitors if you will; the other *a Conſpiracy of a moſt wicked Faction* of Apoſtates, Deiſts, Socinians and Latudinarians, to ſubvert the Government, under pretence of Preſerving the Rights of the People; and to caſt out Chriſtianity, under pretence of Securing the Proteſtant Religion. And how little there is of true Religion amongſt any of them all; is Notorious by their Actions in *the two laſt Parliaments*, upon the *Letters* in Print to Sir *Richard Cocks*, and to the Knights, Gentlemen and Freeholders, and *Commons of England*. What a *Charge of Impiety* is there upon the whole Houſe of Commons! And what a ſilly and impious Vote was paſs'd upon it! And how Hypocritically and Scandalouſly have this laſt deſervedly ſhort-liv'd Houſe of Commons behaved themſelves in their Formal *Addreſs* for a Solemn Day of *Faſting and Prayer* for the Bleſſing of God upon their Conſultations; and yet not one of them all ſo much as open his Mouth for a due Correction of ſo great Impiety.

It is certain and unqueſtionable, that being *aſhamed of Chriſt or his Words*, and *giving Offence or Scandal to Religion*, are *Two Capital Crimes* in the Laws of the Goſpel, and terrible and ſevere Judgments denounced againſt them And nothing can be more *Scandalous* to Religion, than for a Man to make a high Profeſſion of Religion, and be aſhamed or afraid to ſpeak for it, when there is ſo juſt and neceſſary occaſion. So that the Sin and Danger of ſuch Perſons in the Houſe, I take to be the greateſt of all, and that which is like to ſeal up ſome Judgment of God upon the whole Nation, if ſome proper Courſe be not ſpeedily taken to prevent it.

God

God hath already answered them in their own kind: so he hath the Hearts of *Kings* in his hands, and turns them as the Rivers of Water: And if the *People* have not now a Care that they choose none of them again, they who do otherwise may possibly find the *Curse* cleave to themselve, and to those they choose. And as the *King* has done well to Dissolve them, so if he please to consult his Judges, and the Learned in the Law, it is like he will find matter enough to Correct the Insolence of some of the most active *Conspirators*. And then it may be hoped, we may see a true *English* Parliament again, And then it may also be hoped we may see the Decays, which have been too long neglected, effectually repaired.

FINIS.

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